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Shuster Opposes Democrat Spending Spree ***Stimulus Short on Infrastructure Funding, Long on*** ***Wasteful Spending***

Washington, D.C. – Today, **Congressman Bill Shuster** voted to oppose the Democrats' \$1.18 trillion dollar spending spree disguised as an economic growth package.

“The American people have rightly called out for legislation to spur economic growth. Unfortunately, the ‘stimulus package’ as written by the Democrats fails to meet the challenge we face. Instead of providing tax relief and targeted spending to create jobs, the Democrats have created a \$1.18 trillion dollar monument to big government and wasteful spending,” Shuster said.

President Obama told the American people that he would stimulate our economy by rejuvenating our infrastructure. As a long time advocate of improving our nation’s infrastructure, Shuster was encouraged by this announcement. Unfortunately, the Democrats in Congress led by Speaker Pelosi, squandered this historic opportunity to create jobs and strengthen the backbone of our economy in order to fund 40 years of pent up liberal pet projects.

Transportation funding is roughly 8 percent of the total spending in the bill, yet it is responsible for creating 45 percent of the jobs the stimulus is expected to generate.

“For every \$1 billion invested in transportation projects, upwards of 28,000 jobs are created. Imagine the job growth we could have if more of the spending in this bill was targeted at actual infrastructure improvements rather than non-simulative spending to fund groups like ACORN or modernize the Farm Service Agency?” Shuster added. “Congress can do better than this.”

Shuster attempted to improve the bill by offering an amendment to prohibit states from using stimulus money as a substitute for existing funding for transportation projects. If a state were to use stimulus funds to replace existing transportation funds under the Shuster amendment, the appropriate federal agency overseeing that money would be empowered to re-capture those funds.

“My amendment is straightforward and urgently needed,” Shuster said. “It simply makes clear that if we give a state a billion dollars for transportation projects, that state actually uses it for that purpose instead of siphoning it away for unrelated projects. This results in more effective government and better use of taxpayer dollars.”

However, even with the adoption of Shuster’s amendment, the Democrats’ bill contained too

many problems and too much wasteful spending to draw Congressman Shuster's support.

"The best way to grow our economy is to reduce the tax burden of all Americans and create jobs through targeted and limited federal spending," Shuster said. "That's why I supported the Republican substitute that would have had twice the impact of Democrats' bill for half the cost."

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